



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2008

Contact: Amy Saunders

Phone: (304) 558-2021

Attorney General McGraw and the Citizen Advisory Committee Attend Third Meeting

Charleston - Attorney General Darrell McGraw welcomed members of the Citizen Advisory Committee to their third meeting. The meeting was held at the Mountaineer Racetrack, Casino and Resort in Chester, West Virginia.

"The Citizen Advisory Committee is made up of approximately 35 active community members from around the state. The Committee is an important part of outreach between the Attorney General's Office and local communities. The Committee members are all over the state, which gives citizens an opportunity to have face-to-face contact with a representative of the Attorney General's Office. The result of their direct contact with communities has created a strong channel of communication between the Attorney General's Office and communities. The channel of communication is one of the tools that the Attorney General's Office is using to educate consumers, enabling them to make smarter choices and reduce unnecessary litigation," stated McGraw.

Presenters at the meetings spoke on a number of topics. Chris Hedges, Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division, discussed with the committee a new effort to educate citizens on the benefits and possible drawbacks of reverse mortgages. "The Attorney General's Office has been working hard to create an educational piece on reverse mortgages that will be available to citizens in a print format later this year," stated Hedges.

Charlie Fulton, Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division, presented and explained a completed educational piece about hiring contractors to build a new home or to remodel an existing home. "I encourage consumers to carefully research any contractor they may consider hiring for a project. This will help ensure their project is properly completed without problems," stated Fulton.

Jill Miles, head of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and President of the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators for 2006-2008, spoke with the committee members about the problems of dealing with mounting health care costs. "Consumers are being financially affected by health care premiums and negligent billing. Today we had an opportunity to measure the experiences of our members and discuss possible techniques to combat the negative effects," stated Miles.

"The Citizen Advisory Committee members are responsible for the success that this partnership has had in becoming people's direct line of communication to the Attorney General's Office and we all owe them our thanks," stated McGraw.

To contact the Consumer Advocate or Citizen Advisory Committee member in your community, call Amy Saunders, Consumer Coordinator for the West Virginia Attorney General's office at 304-558-2021.

##